GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3973
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
GRANT TO NGOS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Economic Affairs released a sum of Rs. 1 crore prematurely to a Non-Governmental Organisation in November, 1994.

(b) if so, the details of NGO alongwith reasons for releasing the amount prematurely and is there any proposal to investigate the matter and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to ensure that henceforth no amount is released prematurely to any NGO?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Balasaheb Vikhe Patil)

(a) (b) & (c) A grant of Rs. 30.00 lakhs was released in September, 1994 to Acharyakul, an organisation established by Vinobaji, for meeting part of expenditure on activities relating to economic development of backward areas through guidance, training and other help in connection with celebrating 125th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji, Birth Centenary of Vinobaji and Golden Jubilee of Independence during 1994-97. It was decided at that time to make a provision of Rs. 1.00 crore as grant to Acharyakul for the next two years.

A further grant of Rs. 1.00 crore was released to Acharyakul in Nov., 1994 (in addition to Rs. 30.00 lakhs released in Sept, 1994).The grants-in-aid were released, interalia, keeping in view the theme of Gandhian Economics and Economic Development of backward areas through guidance, training and other help.